

# The Citizen of Laconia

*The voice of New Hampshire's Lakes Region*




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2012-06-23 / History

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## Our yesterdays

By WARREN D. HUSE

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**125 YEARS AGO (1887) from The Laconia Democrat** Marsh Hill spring water was “being advertised quite liberally in some of the city papers, where it is kept on sale. Many of our Laconia people drive down to the spring (*on Province Road, in Belmont*) and procure a supply of this water for drinking purposes, free, but city folks have to pay \$3.50 per barrel for the liquid. Chemists say that it is a water of rare purity and possessing superior medicinal properties. We understand that quite a demand for the ‘Belknap Mountain Mineral Spring Water’ (as it is called) is being created.”

**100 YEARS AGO (1912) from The Laconia Democrat** Laconia High School graduated a class of 38, June 21. Valedictorian was Daniel S. Dinsmoor and salutatorian, Clyde D. Carey. The George D. Mayo machine shops were “still running a portion of their shops evenings, to even up the work and keep up with their orders. This concern now has 260 men on their pay-roll, and are taking on new employees as fast as they can be secured. Their pay-roll calls for the distribution of \$20,000 a month.” The Esty Garage, “in the new Esty building (*now home to the Laconia Spa and Happy Jack’s*) on Church street,” had been “leased to Mr. E.L. Warren, who hails from Massachusetts, and has already taken possession of the garage. Mr. Warren is agent for the Cutting cars, and will have cars to rent, and second-hand cars for sale, besides doing general repair work and storage and carrying a full line of supplies of all kinds. The Esty garage has stalls for ten cars in the basement and additional stalls are to be erected in the rear of the main building at once.” **75 YEARS AGO**

**(1937) from The Democrat & The Citizen** A special feature of the annual banquet and get-together of the Laconia High School Alumni Association at The Tavern, June 28, would be a harp recital by Pearl Chertok, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Chertok of this city. The recital would be “in honor of Miss Edith Swain, head of the English department, who is retiring from teaching.” Miss Chertok, a former LHS student, “left in 1935 to further her musical education at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.” (LD) The U.S. Mailboat Uncle Sam made its first trip of the season, June 15. “Edward

Lavallee is captain. Raymond Adams engineer and Carl Simpson and Richard Lavallee crew members. Capt. Claude Dame has the mail contract and leases the boat from Capt. Leander Lavallee who acquired it this past winter from Capt. Archie Lewis.” (LEC) **50 YEARS AGO (1962) from The Laconia Citizen** Two women were named to the Laconia police force, June 20, as reserve officers by the Police Commission. “They will be formally inducted sometime next week, according to Chief Harold Knowlton. They are Mrs. Elsie McCarthy and Mrs. Virginia Knowlton. Both are registered nurses. Mrs. McCarthy, a member of the Board of Health, is employed at the office of Dr. Nathan Brody. She is the wife of Rep. Wal-

ter McCarthy of Ward 1. Mrs. Knowlton, county public health nurse, is the wife of Chief Knowlton. This is believed to be the first time ... there have ever been any women members of the local force. They will be used on special assignments only, Chief Knowlton explained, such as examination and transportation of women prisoners.” In other business, it was voted to install safety belts in the front seats of all three cruisers. **25 YEARS AGO (1987) from The Laconia Citizen** A two-alarm fire “gutted a tire warehouse on Winnisquam Avenue,” late in the evening of June 17, 1987. “No one was injured.” It was the third multi-alarm blaze in the city since the previous week. “The old wooden post-and-beam structure at the corner of Fair St. and Winnisquam Avenue, owned by Salta Tire Co., contained more than 4,500 tires, according to Billy Salta, company president. He estimated that between 1,000

and 1,500 tires were lost in the fire.” New Hampshire Ball Bearing Inc. announced it would lay off 10 percent — or 42 employees — of its local work force effective June 19. The company had hired more than 100 new workers the previous year but now had “too many people for the level of business we are currently maintaining.” Guest of honor at the annual summer meeting, June 18, of the Belknap County Bar Association was Robert P. Tilton, “who recently retired as clerk of court of the Belknap County Superior Court. Judges, court personnel and county officials gathered from throughout the state to honor Tilton, one of the most respected court administrators in New Hampshire.” Speakers paid homage to his “31 years of dedicated service.” Laconia IGA on South Main Street was the newest location for Laconia Savings Bank’s Shop ‘n Bank computer system. Honey Bun’s Bakery and Coffee Shop, 636 Union Avenue, held a “bread cutting” to mark its grand opening in space formerly occupied by Jimmy’s Restaurant. Proprietors were Gail Meinhold and Bonnie Foley. **10 YEARS AGO (2002) from The Citizen** Area beaches opened this weekend and,

despite shortages in previous years, they had plenty of lifeguards this summer. Most of the beaches had been closed the previous year “because there simply weren’t lifeguards available.” However, with the support of the City Council and city manager, Parks and Recreation had offered a training program during the winter. There was a large turnout, “resulting in about 15 lifeguards.” Laconia Christian School had graduated the largest class in its 27-year existence, June 7, awarding diplomas to 23. Laconia Public Library was “poised to jump from the 19th into the 21st century” as its long-awaited computerization effort began. The Learning Corp. of Inwood, W. Va., was installing computer servers, hardware and 17 work stations at the main library, while the work at Goss Reading Room had already been completed. In addition to offering an online card catalog and Internet access, the new system would allow staff to scan books at checkout time. “New library cards which can be read by a bar code scanner are on order and should arrive in mid- July.”

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Belknap County Economic Development Council was chosen as one of six new host sites for the Small Business Administration's

Business Information Center, "which will provide additional small business support to the Lakes Region. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held, June 17, to officially open the host site. Years worth of accumulated materials and information saved by the economic development council, plus thousands more potential resources, "will now be much more accessible to the public." Better reception for cellular phone customers in The Weirs was on its way as the Zoning Board of Adjustment approved, June 19, a request to build a 75-foot tower at the Channel Marine-owned

property at 129 Channel Lane. U.S. Cellular's three existing towers in Laconia and Meredith "were not adequate to ensure clear signals as customers drove down Route 3 into The Weirs. The area has generally poor coverage as well as a dead spot where no signals can be received." Camp Winsheblo would open for the summer, June 24. Located on 200 acres on Liberty Hill Road, Gilford, the camp had been destroyed by fire, June 24, 2001. "Repairs took longer than originally thought, forcing the camp to remain closed for the entire summer" that year.

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